PATENT

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claim 25, without prejudice.

Please cancel claims 10, 11, 18, 38, 60, 41-59, and 61-71, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 72-87.

1-3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) A method of allowing a user to interactively explore how changes in path selection between media aggregation managers affects projected link utilization in a network comprising:

displaying graphical representations of a first media aggregation manager and a second media aggregation manager, the first and second media aggregation managers capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first user community and a second user community, respectively, the first user community and the second user community communicatively coupled by a plurality of physical paths through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;

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displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to

analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the

second user community over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first

projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for routers

associated with the first path; and

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second

request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user

community and the second user community over a second path of the plurality of physical

paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth

usage for routers associated with the second path.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, further comprising overlaying a selected

path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a

projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

6-23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Previously Presented) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data

representing sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the

processor to:

display graphical representations of a first media aggregation manager and a

second media aggregation manager, the first and second media aggregation managers

capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first user

community and a second user community, respectively, the first user community and the

second user community communicatively coupled by a plurality of physical paths through

which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding
devices;

display a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to
analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and the
second user community over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first
projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for routers
associated with the first path; and

display a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request
to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first user community and
the second user community over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the
second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for
routers associated with the second path.

25.   (Currently Amended) The machine-readable medium ~~method~~ of claim 24, further
comprising instructions to overlay a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto
existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with
the selected path.

26-71. (Canceled)

72.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization
and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second
path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

73.   (New) The method of claim 72, wherein the one or more predetermined factors include one or more of:

        a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

        total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

        available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;

        propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path; and

        physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second path.

74.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said instructions further cause said processor to display said first link utilization schedule and said second link utilization schedule of the first path and the second path in a prioritized fashion based upon one or more predetermined factors.

75.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 74, wherein the one or more predetermined factors include one or more of:

        a number of nodes in a path;

        total available bandwidth for a path;

        available communications bandwidth on a path;

        propagation speed between nodes that make up a path; and

        physical length of travel between nodes that make up a path.

76.   (New) A method of allowing a user to interactively explore how changes in path selection between network devices affects projected link utilization in a network comprising:

displaying graphical representations of a first network device and a second network devices, the first and second network devices capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on behalf of a first group of terminals and a second group of terminals, respectively, the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals communicatively coupled by a plurality of physical paths through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for routers associated with the first path; and

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for routers associated with the second path.

77.   (New) The method of claim 76, further comprising overlaying a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

78.   (New) The method of claim 76, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization
and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second
path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

79.   (New) The method of claim 78, wherein the one or more predetermined factors include
one or more of:

      a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

      total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

      available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;

      propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path;
and

      physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second
path.

80.   (New) A method of allowing a user to interactively explore how changes in path
selection between network devices affects projected link utilization in a network
comprising:

      displaying graphical representations of a first network device and a second
network device, the first and second network devices capable of serving as reservation
session aggregation points on behalf of a first group of terminals associated with a first
enterprise location and a second group of terminals associated with a second enterprise
location, respectively, the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals
communicatively coupled by a plurality of physical paths through which media packets
may be exchanged by way of one or more packet forwarding devices;

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for routers associated with the first path; and

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and the second group of terminals over a second path of the plurality of physical paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for routers associated with the second path.

81.   (New) The method of claim 80, further comprising overlaying a selected path of the plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected link utilization associated with the selected path.

82.   (New) The method of claim 80, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

83.   (New) The method of claim 82, wherein the one or more predetermined factors include one or more of:

a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;

propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path;

and

physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second

path.

84.   (New) A method of allowing a user to interactively explore how changes in path

selection between network devices affects projected link utilization in a network

comprising:

displaying graphical representations of a first network device at an edge of a first

local area network on which a first set of terminals runs a first set of local applications on

behalf of which the first network device is configured to act as a signaling and control

proxy and a second network device at an edge of a second local area network on which a

second set of terminals runs a second set of local applications on behalf of which the

second network device is configured to act as a signaling and control proxy, the first and

second network devices capable of serving as reservation session aggregation points on

behalf of a first group of terminals and a second group of terminals, respectively, the first

group of terminals and the second group of terminals communicatively coupled by a

plurality of physical paths through which media packets may be exchanged by way of one

or more packet forwarding devices;

displaying a first projected link utilization schedule in response to a first request to

analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of terminals and

the second group of terminals over a first path of the plurality of physical paths, the first

projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth usage for routers

associated with the first path; and

displaying a second projected link utilization schedule in response to a second

request to analyze the effect of conveying media packets between the first group of

terminals and the second group of terminals over a second path of the plurality of physical

paths, the second projected link utilization schedule illustrating predicted bandwidth

usage for routers associated with the second path.

85. (New) The method of claim 84, further comprising overlaying a selected path of the

plurality of physical paths onto existing bandwidth allocations to determine a projected

link utilization associated with the selected path.

86. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein said displaying a first projected link utilization

and displaying a second link utilization comprises displaying the first path and the second

path prioritized based upon one or more predetermined factors.

87. (New) The method of claim 86, wherein the one or more predetermined factors include

one or more of:

      a number of nodes in the first path or the second path;

      total available bandwidth for the first path or the second path;

      available communications bandwidth on the first path or the second path;

      propagation speed between nodes that make up the first path or the second path;

and

      physical length of travel between nodes that make up the first path or the second

path.